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Lancaster Rural District Council

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Public Health Inspector

for the Year

1958



FRANK N. SHIRES, LTD., MARY STREET, LANCASTER.

Lancaster Rural District Council

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman:

Councillor T. H. TIMBRELL.

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
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| „ F. Butcher, J.P. | „ E. E. Parker. |
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| „ T. B. Exelby. | „ G. M. Yates. |
| „ W. T. Gardner. | „ B. Stables. |
| „ F. Jackson. | „ Rev. R. Stevenson, |
| „ T. M. Kelsall. | „ Rev. R. Stevenson, B.A. |
| „ F. W. Kent. | „ R. Walker. |
| „ J. Kitchen. | „ E. H. Livesey. |
| „ S. R. Long. | |

STAFF :

Medical Officer of Health:

R. W. FARQUHAR, B.Sc. (Agri.), M.B., Ch. B., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector :

KENNETH H DOCTON ° †

First Assistant Surveyor and Public Health Inspector :

CLIFFORD HYDE °

Second Assistant Surveyor and Public Health Inspector :

GEORGE SUMNER.

° Sanitary Inspector's Certificate.

† Member Inst. Municipal and County Engineers.

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Public Health Department,
5, Dalton Square, Lancaster.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Lancaster Rural District Council*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health, sanitary conditions and circumstances of the Lancaster Rural District during 1958.

The estimated population at mid year 1958 was 13,130 an increase of 1075 or 8.9 per cent, since the 1951 census, largely brought about by immigration into the District.

The crude birth rate was 13.9 and the crude death rate was 12.6 per 1,000 population, both these figures being close to the average of the preceeding five years. Coronary thrombosis was again the greatest single cause of death.

1958 was an inter-epidemic year for measles; in 1957 there were 196 cases notified compared with only 45 in 1958. As a result the incidence of infectious disease has been low with a total of 80 notifications. No food poisoning was reported, for the second successive year, and only two cases of Dysentery came to our notice. As in 1957 there were 10 new cases of tuberculosis, and again I can report no deaths from this cause.

Your attention is drawn once again to the comments in Section D regarding the consumption of raw milk in the District. Although bacteriological results would indicate that the raw milk is above average quality, I can only re-iterate that the risk of brucellosis (undulant fever), a disease conveyed to humans in raw milk from a herd which is not free from contagious abortion, is not insignificant in this area.

1958 was again an unfortunate year as regards weather conditions during the summer season, but the rain being spread over a long period, caused no serious flooding. A start was made upon the Overton sewage disposal scheme, and the Cockerham effluent disposal pumping station was completed and brought into use early in the year. Further improvements were effected at Middleton sewage works, and a scheme for the full treatment of sewage from the village of Bolton-le-Sands being contemplated, arrangements for the acquisition of a suitable site were put into effect.

Much of your Public Health Inspector's time is taken up in connection with inspection and supervision of food premises. In accordance with the Food Hygiene (Amendment) Regulations of 1957, 28 premises were registered for the purpose of shrimp picking. It is pleasing to report that no legal proceedings have been necessary in respect of ~~contamination~~ *contravention* of food legislation.

There has been no significant change in regard to the housing situation in the District. The number of applicants for houses at the end of the year was reduced to 60 following a request to all on the previous years list still requiring a house, to re-submit an up-to-date application. 54 families were rehoused as a result of houses becoming vacant during the year. These important statistics again reflect a satisfactory state of affairs, as regards the Councils capability of housing genuine applicants.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
R. W. FARQUHAR,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Area in acres | 53,212 |
| Population (Census 1951) | 12,055 |
| Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid year 1958) | 13,130 |
| Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931) | 2,396 |
| Number of inhabited houses 1957 (according to rate books) | 4,430 |
| Rateable Value | £173,483 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate | £723 |

The District is largely rural in character with popular residential areas in several of its sixteen parishes.

Agriculture is the most important, if not the largest industry. Other industries are quarrying, building, textiles and catering for tourists and holiday makers.

By far the largest industrial undertaking is the Trimpell petroleum refinery at Middleton, which provides employment for a considerable number of people from the Rural District.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR YEAR 1958.

Population: Registrar-General's Estimate, mid 1958, 13,130

| | M. | F. | Total |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|-------|
| Live Births (Legitimate) | 96 | 82 | 178 |
| (Illegitimate) | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Total | 98 | 84 | 182 |
| Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population | | | 13.9 |
| Stillbirths | 1 | — | 1 |
| Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births | | | 5.5 |
| Total Live and Still-births | | | 183 |
| Deaths of Infants under one year of age:— | M. | F. | Total |
| Legitimate Infants | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Illegitimate Infants | — | 1 | 1 |
| All Infants | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births—total | | | 27.5 |
| legitimate | | | 22.4 |
| illegitimate | | | 250.0 |
| Neo Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births (first four weeks) | | | 11.0 |
| Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births | | | 2.2 |
| Maternal deaths (including abortion) | | | Nil |
| Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still-births | | | Nil |
| Deaths (all causes) | 88 | 77 | 165 |
| Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population | | | 12.6 |

TABLE 1. COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR 1958 AND THE PERIOD 1953-1957.

| Year | Live births | | Deaths (all causes) | | Still births | | Maternal Mortality | | Infant Mortality | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| | No. regis- tered | Rate per 1,000 pop'n | No. regis- tered | Rate per 1,000 pop'n | No. regis- tered | Rate per 1,000 total births | No. of deaths regis- tered | Rate per 1,000 total births | Total | | Neo-natal | |
| | | | | | | | | | No. of deaths regis- tered | Rate per 1,000 live births | No. of deaths regis- tered | Rate per 1,000 live births |
| 1958 | 182 | *13.9 | 165 | †12.6 | 1 | 5.5 | Nil | Nil | 5 | 27.5 | 2 | 11 |
| 1957 | 192 | 14.8 | 171 | 13.1 | 2 | 10.0 | Nil | Nil | 3 | 16 | 2 | 10 |
| 1956 | 153 | 11.9 | 184 | 14.4 | 3 | 19.2 | Nil | Nil | 6 | 39 | 5 | 33 |
| 1955 | 162 | 12.8 | 176 | 13.9 | 4 | 24.0 | Nil | Nil | 6 | 37 | 4. | 25 |
| 1954 | 184 | 14.8 | 169 | 13.6 | 3 | 16.0 | Nil | Nil | 2 | 11 | 2 | 11 |
| 1953 | 188 | 15.4 | 130 | 10.6 | 1 | 5.0 | 1 | 5.29 | 3 | 16 | 2 | 11 |
| Average 5 years 1953-1957 | — | 13.9 | — | 13.1 | — | 14.4 | — | 1.08 | — | 23.8 | — | 18 |

* Adjusted live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.08) = 15.0 per 1,000 population.

† Adjusted death-rate (comparability factor, 0.85) = 10.7 per 1,000 population.

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS.

1. **Population.** The Registrar-General's estimate of the population at mid-year 1958 was 13,130 an increase of 120 over the previous year. The population at the 1951 census was 12,055, so that the total estimated increase since that date is 1,075 or 8.9%. Since the natural increase (i.e., excess of births over deaths) during these seven years was only 92 the remainder, 983 must be attributed to the influx of new residents.
2. **Births.** In 1958 there were 182 registered live births, a fall of 10 from the previous year, giving a crude birth rate of 13.9 per 1,000 population. The adjusted rate of 15.0 per 1,000 may be compared with the crude rate for England and Wales, which is 16.4 per 1,000.
3. **Deaths.** The total number of deaths from all causes in 1958 was 165, 6 less than in the previous year, giving a crude death rate of 12.6 per 1,000 population. The adjusted death rate was 10.7 per 1,000, the comparable rate for England and Wales being 11.7 per 1,000.

It will be seen from the classified list of causes of death in table 3 that diseases of the heart and circulatory diseases again appeared as the most common cause of death and in this group coronary thrombosis continues to be the chief culprit. This disease is characteristic in that it most often strikes people in middle age, reflecting perhaps the increased tempo of modern life.

4. **Infant Mortality.** The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 5, equivalent to an infant mortality rate of 27.5 per 1,000 live births. Owing to the smallness of the absolute figures the mortality rate can vary considerably from year to year and the average rate for the preceding five years was 23.8 per 1,000 live births. The rate for England and Wales in 1958 was 22.5.
5. **Long-term Trends in Vital Statistics.** A much more reliable picture of the long-term changes in the birth and death rates in the District can be obtained when the yearly variations, which for statistical reasons may occur at irregular intervals, have been smoothed out as in Table 2 overleaf. This shows the birth and death rates expressed as averages of each 10 year period between 1891-1950, and from these certain trends can be traced and conclusions drawn with reasonable safety. Thus the distinct fall in infant and maternal mortality and from tuberculosis is apparent in contrast to the upward trend of the cancer death rate.

TABLE 2. VITAL STATISTICS LANCASTER R.D.

The principal vital statistics for the six decennial periods between 1891 and 1950, together with those for each of the last eight years, are given below:—

| | Estimated population (all ages) | Live Births | | Stillbirths | | Deaths (all causes) | | Infant Mortality | | Maternal Mortality | Cancer (Deaths) | | Respiratory Tuberculosis (Deaths) | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | No. Registered | Rate per 1,000 est. pop'n | No. Registered | Rate per 1,000 total births | No. Registered | Rate per 1,000 est. pop'n | No. of infant deaths registered | Rate per 1,000 live-births | No. of maternal deaths registered | No. of deaths registered | Rate per 1,000 est. pop'n | No. of deaths registered | Rate per 1,000 est. pop'n |
| Mean of 10 yrs | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1891-1900 | 13,224 | 374.4 | 28.3 | § | § | 217.5 | 16.4 | 46.7 | 125 | § | § | § | 16.3 | 1.23 |
| 1901-1910 | 8,937 | 199.7 | 22.3 | § | § | 120.2 | 13.4 | 19.4 | 97 | § | 5.8 | 0.65 | 6.4 | 0.72 |
| 1911-1920 | *9,001) †8,702) | 165.3 | 18.4 | § | § | 120.5 | 13.8 | 13.7 | 83 | 0.6 | 10.9 | 1.25 | 5.3 | 0.61 |
| 1921-1930 | 9,332 | 161.5 | 17.3 | § | § | 120.3 | 12.9 | 9.6 | 59 | 0.6 | 11.6 | 1.24 | 4.2 | 0.45 |
| 1931-1940 | *9,829) †9,857) | 135.7 | 13.8 | 6.6 | 46 | 135.2 | 13.7 | 7.8 | 57 | 1.0 | 15.4 | 1.56 | 4.9 | 0.50 |
| 1941-1950 | 11,002 | 165.3 | 15.0 | 3.6 | 21.4 | 148 | 13.5 | 6.5 | 39.4 | 0.4 | 20 | 1.82 | 2.6 | 0.24 |
| 1951 | 11,990 | 185 | 15.4 | 5 | 26 | 164 | 13.7 | 6 | 32 | Nil | 21 | 1.75 | 3 | 0.25 |
| 1952 | 12,050 | 173 | 14.4 | 3 | 17 | 147 | 12.2 | 5 | 29 | Nil | 28 | 2.32 | 2 | 0.17 |
| 1953 | 12,240 | 188 | 15.4 | 1 | 5 | 130 | 10.6 | 3 | 16 | 1 | 26 | 2.12 | 1 | 0.08 |
| 1954 | 12,470 | 184 | 14.8 | 3 | 16 | 169 | 13.6 | 2 | 11 | Nil | 31 | 2.49 | 2 | 0.16 |
| 1955 | 12,680 | 162 | 12.8 | 4 | 24 | 176 | 13.9 | 6 | 37 | Nil | 18 | 1.42 | 2 | 0.16 |
| 1956 | 12,820 | 153 | 11.9 | 3 | 19 | 184 | 14.4 | 6 | 39 | Nil | 28 | 2.18 | 2 | 0.16 |
| 1957 | 13,010 | 192 | 14.8 | 2 | 10 | 171 | 13.1 | 3 | 16 | Nil | 18 | 1.38 | Nil | Nil |
| 1958 | 13,130 | 182 | 13.9 | 1 | 5.5 | 165 | 12.6 | 5 | 27.5 | Nil | 21 | 1.6 | 1 | 0.08 |

* For calculation of birth-rate.

† For calculation of death-rate.

§ Not available.

NOTE—1. From 1950 deaths from Hodgkin's disease, leukaemia and aleukaemia are included in the total of cancer deaths.

2. The population estimates and numbers of registered deaths for the years 1940-1949, inclusive, relate to civilians only

3. The decrease in population at the change of the century was due to boundary alterations.

TABLE 3.

**CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE
YEAR,, 1958.**

| Number | M. | F. | Total |
|---------------------------------------------------|----|----|-------|
| 1. Tuberculosis, respiratory | 1 | — | 1 |
| 2. Tuberculosis, other forms | — | — | — |
| 3. Syphilitic disease | — | — | — |
| 4. Diphtheria | — | — | — |
| 5. Whooping Cough | — | — | — |
| 6. Meningococcal Infections | — | — | — |
| 7. Acute Poliomyelitis | — | — | — |
| 8. Measles | — | — | — |
| 9. Other infective and parasitic diseases | — | — | — |
| 10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| 11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus | 3 | — | 3 |
| 12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast | — | 4 | 4 |
| 13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus | — | — | — |
| 14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | 2 | 7 | 9 |
| 15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia | — | — | — |
| 16. Diabetes | — | — | — |
| 17. Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System | 14 | 11 | 25 |
| 18. Coronary disease, Angina | 23 | 14 | 37 |
| 19. Hypertension with Heart Disease | 1 | — | 1 |
| 20. Other Heart Diseases | 13 | 16 | 29 |
| 21. Other Circulatory Diseases | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| 22. Influenza | — | — | — |
| 23. Pneumonia | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| 24. Bronchitis | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| 25. Other diseases of Respiratory System | — | 1 | 1 |
| 26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum | 1 | — | 1 |
| 27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea | — | — | — |
| 28. Nephritis and Nephrosis | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 29. Hyperplasia of Prostate | 1 | — | 1 |
| 30. Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion | — | — | — |
| 31. Congenital Malformations | — | 1 | 1 |
| 32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases | 5 | 7 | 12 |
| 33. Motor Vehicle Accidents | 2 | — | 2 |
| 34. All other Accidents | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 35. Suicide | — | 2 | 2 |
| 36. Homicide and operations of war | — | — | — |
| Total deaths from all causes | 88 | 77 | 165 |

TABLE 4. DEATHS CLASSIFIED BY AGE GROUP AND PARISH — 1958.

| PARISH | 0- | 1- | 2- | 3- | 4- | 5- | 10- | 15- | 20- | 35- | 45- | 65- | 75- | 80+ | Total |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Ashton-w-Stodday | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Bolton-le-Sands | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 10 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 31 |
| Cockerham | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | 1 | | 3 |
| Ellel | 2 | | | | | | | | | | 7 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 26 |
| Heaton-w-Oxcliffe | | | | | | | | | | | | 4 | 1 | | 5 |
| Middleton | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 3 |
| Overton | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | | 1 | 4 |
| Over Wyresdale | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 2 |
| Priest Hutton | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Scotforth | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Silverdale | | | | | | | | | | | 12 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 37 |
| Slyne-w-Hest | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | 3 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 23 |
| Thurnham | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 8 |
| Warton | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 4 | 4 | 2 | 11 |
| Yealand Conyers | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 2 | 4 |
| Yealand Redmayne | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | 2 |
| TOTALS | 5 | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 39 | 43 | 35 | 41 | 165 |

SECTION B.

**GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
IN THE AREA.**

(a) **Laboratory Facilities.** Specimens for bacteriological examination are sent to the Pathologist at the Lancaster Royal Infirmary. Analysis of food and drugs is carried out under the direction of the Lancashire County Council.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.** Ambulance Services are administered by the Divisional Health Office of the Lancashire County Council, Health Division No. 2; Victoria House, Regent Street, Lancaster; the telephone number of the ambulance station is Lancaster 3311.

(c) **Domicilliary Services.** The services of District Nurses, Midwives, and Home Helps, to look after patients in their own homes, are provided by the Lancashire County Council, acting as the Local Health Authority. These services for the Lancaster Rural District are administered from the Divisional Health Office—address as above.

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.** The following Centres and Clinics catering for the area have been established by the Lancashire County Council:—

School Clinics:

- (1) Market Street, Carnforth.
- (2) Ashton Road, Lancaster.
- (3) Euston Road, Morecambe.

Child Welfare Centres:—

- (1) Memorial Hall, Hest Bank.
- (2) The Village Institute, Galgate.
- (3) Gaskell Memorial Hall, Silverdale.
- (4) Congregational Church Hall, Bolton-le-Sands.
- (5) Market Street, Carnforth.
- (6) Parliament Street, Morecambe.
- (7) Euston Road, Morecambe.
- (8) St. John's Ambulance Hall, Heysham.
- (9) Methodist Hall, Torrisholme.

The following clinics are administered by the Lancaster and Kendal Hospital Management Committee:—

- (1) Tuberculosis—Beaumont Hospital, Lancaster.
- (2) Venereal Diseases—Special Treatment Centre, Royal

(e) **Hospitals.** Lancaster Infirmary.

Infectious Diseases:—Beaumont Hospital, at Slyne Road, Lancaster, is available and is administered by the Lancaster and Kendal Hospital Management Committee.

Smallpox cases would be notified to the secretary of the Lancaster and Kendal Hospital Management Committee, who would arrange for their disposal to a Smallpox Hospital.

Other Cases :—The Lancaster Royal Infirmary, The Queen Victoria Hospital, Morecambe, Lancaster Moor Hospital, Royal Albert Hospital, Bay View Hospital and two private nursing homes.

SECTION C.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

TABLE 5.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

CASES NOTIFIED — 1958.

| Disease | All Ages | 0- | 1- | 3- | 5- | 10- | 15- | 25- | 45- | 65 and over | Total Deaths |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------------|-----------------|
| Scarlet Fever | 5 | — | 2 | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Diphtheria | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Paratyphoid Fever | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Measles | 45 | 2 | 5 | 12 | 23 | 2 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Whooping Cough | 12 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 6 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Acute Pneumonia (Primary and Influenzal) | 5 | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Meningococcal Infection | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Acute Poliomyelitis | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Erysipelas | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Dysentery | 2 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Food Poisoning | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Tuberculosis | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Respiratory | 8 | — | — | — | — | 1 | 5 | — | 2 | — | — |
| Meninges and C.N.S. | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 80 | 6 | 9 | 16 | 33 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 2 | — |

1. Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever.

For the eighth successive year no cases of diphtheria occurred in the area. To maintain this satisfactory position, it is still essential that parents should take advantage of all the vaccination and immunisation procedures offered for their babies and school children.

5 cases of scarlet fever were notified compared with 1 in 1957 and 3 in 1956.

2. Measles and Whooping Cough.

It is characteristic of measles that it becomes more prevalent in alternative years. In 1957 there were nearly 200 cases, compared with under 50 in 1958, which were all mild with minimal complications. A further wave is anticipated in 1959.

There were more notifications of whooping cough than in the two previous years, although the actual total remains small. Throughout the country, numbers have been falling for several years, and this is no doubt due to immunisation; there is vaccine available which protects against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough simultaneously.

3. Tuberculosis.

Notifications were the same as in 1957. There were 8 new cases of respiratory and 2 of non-respiratory tuberculosis. No deaths were registered during the year. The long established measures directed to the prevention and control of tuberculosis must still be vigorously pursued. The acceptance rate of B.C.G. vaccination for school children can be considered as satisfactory.

4. Brucellosis.

By March 1960 all raw milk should be free from bovine tuberculosis under the Tuberculosis (Attested Herds) Scheme.

Other diseases may still be transmitted by unpasteurised milk, however, one such disease being Brucellosis (Undulant Fever). The responsible organism, *Brucella abortus*, is that which causes contagious abortion in cattle, and a recent survey has estimated that 15 per cent of herds may be infected in Great Britain, with 3 per cent infected animals.

Cases of Brucellosis in humans are still being diagnosed in this area whilst an acute attack is rapidly overcome with adequate treatment, if it progresses untreated, then the patient may become a permanent invalid, quite unable to work.

The first line of defence is to ensure healthy herds, the second is recognition by the public that only heat-treated milk can be accepted as absolutely safe.

TABLE 6. INCIDENCE OF CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES LANCASTER R.D., 1949-58.

| YEAR | Scarlet Fever | Diph- theria | Measles | Whoop- ing Cough | Acute Polio- myelitis | Dysen- tery | Food Poison- ing | Resp. Tubercul- osis | Non-Resp. Tubercul- osis | Tubercul- osis (All Forms) |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1949 | 10 | — | 33 | 5 | 2 | — | — | 6 | 7 | 13 |
| 1950 | 9 | 1 | 46 | 20 | 2 | 1 | — | 12 | 2 | 14 |
| 1951 | 14 | — | 138 | 39 | 1 | — | — | 10 | 3 | 13 |
| 1952 | 12 | — | 13 | 9 | — | 2 | — | 10 | 4 | 14 |
| 1953 | 8 | — | 65 | 13 | 3 | — | 28 | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| Mean of 5 years 1949-53 | 10.6 | 0.2 | 59.0 | 17.2 | 1.6 | 0.6 | 5.6 | 9.2 | 3.4 | 12.6 |
| 1954 | 6 | — | 45 | 14 | — | 6 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| 1955 | 6 | — | 109 | 12 | 1 | — | 2 | 9 | 4 | 13 |
| 1956 | 3 | — | 6 | 9 | — | — | 1 | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| 1957 | 1 | — | 196 | 2 | — | 2 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| 1958 | 5 | — | 45 | 12 | 1 | 2 | — | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| Mean of 5 years 1954-58 | 4.2 | Nil | 80.2 | 9.8 | 0.4 | 2.0 | 1.6 | 7.4 | 2.8 | 10.2 |

SECTION D.

**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES
OF THE DISTRICT.**

HOUSING.

Housing Schemes.

The Council's housing schemes had been completed by the end of 1955, and provided accommodation as detailed below:—

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Bolton-le-Sands | 74 houses and 20 flats. |
| Cockerham | 10 houses. |
| Ellel | 140 houses, 8 flats and 4 shops and houses. |
| Heaton-with-Oxcliffe | 4 houses. |
| Middleton | 56 houses and 2 shops and houses. |
| Overton | 16 houses. |
| Over Wyresdale | 4 houses. |
| Priest Hutton | 4 houses. |
| Scotforth | 4 houses. |
| Silverdale | 26 houses and 8 flats. |
| Slyne-with-Hest | 77 houses, 6 flats and 1 shop and house. |
| Thurnham | 22 houses. |
| Warton | 76 houses and 16 flats. |
| Yealand Redmayne | 28 houses. |
| Total | <u>541 houses, 58 flats and 7 shops and houses.</u> |

Total number of all dwellings:—606.

There are now no Council housing schemes in hand, but a thorough investigation of the housing circumstances of aged people is being made, with a view to providing special accommodation for these classes if there is a real requirement, in this respect.

At the end of the year there were 60 applicants for dwellings on the Council's list, and during the year 54 families were rehoused. These statistics reflect the most satisfactory state of affairs that have existed in the post-war period, as regards the period a genuine applicant is likely to be waiting for housing accommodation.

House-building by private enterprise very considerably increased during 1958, there being 76 houses completed. By far the greatest number of these dwellings were in the Parishes of Bolton-le-Sands and Slyne-with-Hest, only twenty or so being scattered throughout the other Parishes.

Inspections of Dwelling Houses.

Number of houses inspected under the provisions of the

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Housing Acts | 210 |
| Number of inspections involved | 388 |
| Number of houses found not in all respects fit | 195 |
| Number rendered fit after service of Notice | 185 |
| Number found to be unfit for human habitation | 2 |
| Number demolished as a result of formal or informal action | 3 |
| Number closed as a result of formal or informal action | 2 |

Overcrowding. Nothing can be added to what has been said in previous years, overcrowding no longer presenting a serious problem. It is likely, of course, that an isolated case will be discovered from time to time, and it is felt that such cases should receive high priority, when a Council house in the locality becomes available for letting.

General Remarks. In my annual report for 1955 I gave a detailed summary of the report upon unfit houses in the District, as submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government, in accordance with the provisions of Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. This summary was as follows :—

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 | 38 |
| Period in years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all the houses | 10 |
| Number of houses to be demolished or closed within five years | 24 |

Action has now been taken in respect of 19 of the houses included in the first five years programme, leaving 5 others to be dealt with during 1959. 16 of the houses have been vacated and either demolished or closed, and an undertaking from the owner of 3 others to make fit, has been accepted, and the work completed.

During 1958, applications have been steadily forthcoming for improvement grants to dwelling houses under the provisions of the Housing Act 1949. The policy of basing the grant on 30% of the costs of eligible work has continued. The following details summarise the applications for such grants received during the year:—

| | |
|---------------------------------------------|--------|
| Total number of applications received | 19 |
| Total number of applications approved | 18 |
| Total amount of grants approved | £2,646 |
| Average amount per house | £147 |

In all since 1955, ninety-nine applications have been received, and ninety-five approved. Though there are no definite statistics available, this latter figure probably represents in the region of 10% of the total number of houses in the District without such amenities as a bathroom, hot water supply etc. Thus it is true to say that these improvement grants have already done more than merely scratch the surface of the problem of improving housing standards in the district.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The following Authorities supply water in the district:—

Lancaster Corporation. The Parishes of Scotforth, Slyne-with-Hest, Bolton-le-Sands, Middleton, Overton, most of the Parish of Warton, part of Ashton-with-Stodday; and by agreement with the Morecambe and Heysham Corporation part of Heaton-with-Oxcliffe is supplied from the mains of that Corporation which supply Heysham, the rest of the Parish being supplied from the Lancaster Corporation mains.

Fylde Water Board. The Parishes of Cockerham, Thurnham, and part of Ashton-with-Stodday.

Lancaster Rural District Council. This Council purchases water in bulk from the Thirlmere Pipe Line and supplies the Parishes of Ellel, Priest Hutton, Yealand Conyers, Yealand Redmayne, a small part of Warton and Silverdale.

Part of the Parish of Over Wyresdale is supplied by private mains which are the property of the Earl of Sefton.

Origin and Particulars of Water.

Lancaster Corporation. The water supplied by the Lancaster Corporation is Moorland Water from the gathering grounds in Over Wyresdale. It is subjected to mechanical filtration and chlorination at Langthwaite and Scotforth Filter Houses before distribution except in the case of certain mains carrying raw water either from the gathering grounds to the reservoirs, supplying the Littlefell Lane area, Scotforth or from the reservoirs to the filter-house, supplying Bailrigg Lane area, in the same parish. It is also treated to bring it to seven degrees of hardness from its original state of about 2 degrees. The Corporation have also a connection to the Thirlmere Pipe Line.

The water supplied to the Warton Parish is obtained from the Reservoir at Withets. The gathering ground is of a Moorland nature but is liable to animal pollution. The Corporation, however, provides an effective and modern chlorination and filtration plant and the bacteriological analyses have shown the water to be good when supplied to the consumer. There is also a connection to the Thirlmere Pipe Line.

Fylde Water Board. This is also Moorland Water from the gathering grounds in the Pennine Range.

Lancaster Rural District Council. The water obtained from the Thirlmere Pipe line is from Moorlands and of about 2 degrees of hardness. It is understood that rough screening and chlorination takes place near its source. Samples of the water taken over a period

of many years, for bacteriological examination have all been reported as satisfactory. No major extension of the public mains was found to be necessary during the year, but arrangements have been made with the Lancashire County Council Surveyor for a number of diversions and other alterations of water mains affected by the North-South Road Lancaster By-Pass Scheme, now proceeding.

New Services. During the year 76 services were laid to new dwellings and 1 to an existing house. A main supply is now provided to 4,000 dwellings, being about 90% of all the dwellings in the district. The remaining 430 houses, etc., obtain supplies from other sources such as roof water, wells and springs.

Sampling of Water Supplies. Samples for bacteriological examination were taken as follows :—

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Lancaster R.D.C., Main supply, ,Ellel | 1 |
| Lancaster R.D.C., Main supply, Yealand Conyers | 1 |
| Lancaster Corporation Main supply, Warton | 1 |
| Lancaster Corporation Main supply, Middleton, | 3 |
| Lancaster Corporation Main supply, Scotforth R.P. (untreated). | 8 |

All the above supplies were reported satisfactory as regards bacterial content except the untreated supply to the Scotforth rural area, comprising Bailrigg Lane, Littlefell Lane and Burrow. Of the 8 samples taken from that locality 6 were found to be unsatisfactory as regards B. Coli content, which usually indicates pollution of a faecal origin. Previous samples taken over the past five years had all been satisfactory. In addition it was ascertained that the typical peat discolouration had been very much worse during 1958 than in previous years, and complaints were received from a number of house-holders. At the end of the year, in accordance with your instructions, and following my recommendation, the matter had been taken up with the Lancaster Corporation, requesting a thorough investigation by the undertaking, with a view to ascertaining the source and nature of the pollution and the putting into operation of any possible remedial measures.

A further water supply problem arose during the peak of the Summer Season, in respect of water supplied by the Lancaster Corporation, in the parish of Middleton, particularly involving the Middleton Tower Holiday Camp, and a large adjoining Caravan site. The supply as drawn at the Camp, was found to contain large quantities of sand, one specimen submitted to the laboratory was reported to have a sand content of 6,200 parts per million. The

Corporation, with the co-operation of the Camp management, undertook to carry out prolonged and systematic flushing of the trunk main, and this operation was completed in November. It is understood that, as an additional safeguard, a strainer valve is to be fitted to the incoming main to the Camp, which could then operate should the trouble tend to re-occur during the peak period of consumption.

Prevention of Waste. Routine work involving examination of weekly flow charts and meter readings, and following up any abnormal consumption figures with tests in the particular district concerned, was again a vitally necessary part of the job of maintaining the public supplies. In all, rather more than 270 tests on mains, etc., were carried out during the year in order to locate bursts and maintain consumption at normal levels.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Details of the methods of drainage and sewage disposal are as follows:—

Cockerham. Cockerham village and Housing Site is sewered and the sewage treated by means of a septic tank and rotary filter. The effluent is pumped from the works via a 4ins. diam. rising main, direct to the tidal River Cocker. This method of disposal of the effluent was brought into operation in mid-January 1958 and has continued to function in a most satisfactory manner.

Thurnham (Higher Thurnham). The sewage from the few houses in this hamlet is discharged into a number of separate tanks, the effluents eventually finding their way into drainage dykes. One of the tanks serving two houses, has been recently constructed on modern lines. No complaints regarding pollution of the dykes have been received and no such pollution has been noted.

Thurnham (Lower Thurnham). This hamlet is sewered, and, as far as can be ascertained, there is no treatment of the sewage prior to its discharge into a drainage dyke. Nevertheless, observations over a long period have not indicated that the contamination of the dyke is of anything but a minor nature. This opinion is agreed by the Lancashire River Board inspector, and, at least for the present, there is no evidence to justify any action being taken against the owner of this private sewerage system.

Thurnham (Glasson Dock). Glasson Dock is sewered by two separate systems and the sewage is discharged crude into the sea via two outfalls.

Ellel. Galgate is sewered and the sewage is conveyed by means of a long pipe to discharge in the tidal portion of the River Conder at Conder Green. The installation of pumping plant and construction of a modern sewage works for this village will have to be considered ultimately.

Dolphinholme is sewered and the sewage treated by means of a recently constructed septic tank near Common Bank Farm, and two rotary percolating filters by the side of the River Wyre, the effluent being discharged into the River.

Over Wyresdale. This Parish being of a scattered nature (1 person to 45 acres) has no drainage system, and no pollution has been found.

Middleton. Most of this Parish is now sewered. All sewers from the village and the four Council housing sites drain to the pumping station near Garden Terrace, which ejects the sewage via a rising main and gravitating sewer to the sewage works at Middleton Tower Holiday Camp.

The effluent from these works is pumped via a 6in. diameter rising main into the 18in. diameter sea outfall pipe of the adjoining factory. This latter pipe discharges into the main shipping channel and so provides an excellent means of disposal of the effluent, without any pollution of fresh water dykes.

In order to cope with the increased volume of effluent which the completion of the Overton sewage disposal scheme will bring about, a new pump capable of dealing with almost twice the existing pump capacity has been installed. Unfortunately, however, it will not be in operation for some time, as the North Western Electricity Board have intimated that a new transformer station will be required, in order to provide an adequate electricity supply for the new plant. It is hoped that this new pump will be operating before the opening of the Summer Season.

Heaton-with-Oxcliffe. All the dwellings in this Parish are separately drained into some form of septic tank, usually provided with a filter compartment. In most cases, however, the only means of disposal of the effluent is by discharging into the open drainage dykes, as the land is far too heavy to allow effective soakage. Furthermore, owing to the level of the water in the dykes, proper downward filtration is rarely possible, and the filter beds mostly are submerged, and merely acting as mechanical filters. As a result, the dykes are frequently silted up with humus and require constant attention from the many owners involved in order to maintain in a reasonable condition.

Consideration has already been given to a possible link up with the Morecambe Corporation sewerage scheme, in order to sewer the factory area, but it was apparent that the limited usefulness of such a scheme did not justify the high costs involved. It is to be hoped, however, that an alternative link up will be available for consideration in the future, with a view to sewerage the White Lund Hill and Oxcliffe Road residential areas.

It must be emphasised, however, that the costs of such a scheme would almost certainly be so high, as to make it extremely unlikely, that the work could be even contemplated for a number of years.

Overton. Piped sewers exist in Overton but no treatment is given to the outfall which discharges into a main drainage dyke some 100 yards from its junction with the tidal portion of the River Lune. This drainage dyke passes near to the highway at the Globe Hotel and it is at times objectionable.

A start has been made upon the scheme to pump the whole of the sewage, via a rising main to the Middleton sewage works. This scheme will also incorporate necessary storm water overflows

made to discharge into the channel on the Tidal side of the barrier. During the year the rising main has been laid and tenders have been invited for the laying of a new 12ins. diam concrete outfall sewer to the proposed pump-house and the 12ins. diam concrete storm sewer. It is anticipated that this work will be commenced about April of 1959, thus leaving the construction of the pumping station and installation of pumps for the third phase of the programme, scheduled to be carried out and completed during 1960.

Sunderland Point in this Parish has a few private outfall pipes discharging direct into the tidal River Lune. It is considered that this method of disposal is satisfactory.

Scotforth. This Parish is also of a scattered nature (1 person to $8\frac{1}{2}$ acres) and has no drainage system.

Ashton-with-Stodday. There is no sewage scheme for this Parish which has only 25 houses in it.

Slyne-with-Hest. The greatest part of this parish is sewered and the sewage treated at the works at Hest Bank. A small built-up area, adjoining the junction of Hest Bank Lane with the main road, is not sewered, but each house has its own septic tank and filter, for the maintenance of which the individual occupier is responsible.

Except during the latter part of 1954, when flood water affected this locality and rendered ineffective these separate drainage systems, there has been very little trouble experienced from them, provided they have been properly maintained. It is emphasised that even if the locality was sewered to a pumping station, which would eject the sewage to the main sewerage system, a repetition of the 1954 floods would put the pumps out of action, at least temporarily, until levels had subsided. In other words, no system of foul drainage could function in a proper manner, so as to be perfectly safe from the Public Health aspect, if the surface water drainage arrangements are inadequate to prevent flooding of the locality, at certain times.

Bolton-le-Sands. The greater part of this Parish is sewered, the sewage being discharged crude into the mill race channel on the tidal foreshore at the end of St. Nicholas Lane. This outlet, while it does not cause a nuisance, is not up to the modern standards of Sewage Disposal, and it is suggested that some form of treatment, or settlement of solids be given to the sewage before it is discharged. With this fact in mind, the Council have agreed to purchase land off St. Nicholas Lane on the westerly side of the railway line as a site for the proposed future sewage works. Negotiations for its purchase are proceeding.

St. Michael's Lane and part of the Coastal Road is not sewered, the property being drained into septic tanks with filters and cesspools.

During the year the trunk sewer from Town-End Farm to the manhole opposite St. Michael's Lane was re-laid as a 15in. diameter concrete pipe, to replace the former 8in. and 9in. diameter length. The whole of the trunk sewer from Town-End Farm to the tidal outfall is now in 15in. diameter pipes, but owing to the slack gradient, there may still be surcharging occur in the length below the railway bridge on St. Nicholas Lane, during storm periods, it would appear, however, that overflowing from the manholes, as a result of this sur-charging has been temporarily cured by bolting down the covers.

Warton. The Millhead portion of Warton is sewered and the sewage disposed of to the Carnforth Works. The remainder of the Parish, with the exception of the Western end of Sands Lane, is also sewered and disposed of crude into the semi-tidal waters of the River Keer. It is recommended that at some future date steps be taken to provide some form of treatment for the sewage before it is discharged into the river.

Any such scheme would necessarily involve the re-laying of the outfall sewer from near to the Shovel Inn, as a rising main under pressure. The existing outfall is laid at an entirely inadequate gradient, so that gross surcharging occurs during storm periods, sometimes causing an overflow of sewage near to the two cottages known as "Thoroughfair." It is not possible to obtain sufficient gradient on any outfall pipe to the Keer, so that a pumping station and rising main is the only effective alternative.

Yealand Conyers. There are no public sewers in this small Parish. The largest group of houses are, however, drained into a septic tank with rotary percolating filter. No pollution of water courses takes place. Several cesspools are emptied by the Council at the request of the owners and the contents disposed of on the land.

Yealand Redmayne. The Housing Site and part of the village is sewered to a disposal tank, which drains into a duplicate system of land drains.

A new effluent disposal area was brought into use during 1955 and it would appear that what had become a very difficult problem in recent years, has been successfully overcome.

Priest Hutton. There is no public drainage system for this Parish. All the property is drained into cesspools or septic tanks and filters.

A number of houses in the village have been provided with modern septic tank drainage systems in recent years, and pollution of the stream is now less evident, except in the vicinity of the school.

Silverdale. The whole of Silverdale being built on solid rock has no public sewers, with the exception of the system draining the housing site and a few properties adjoining. Each house has its own cesspool and regular arrangements exist for emptying the cesspools and disposing of the contents on the land. This arrangement has proved very satisfactory and very few complaints are received.

During the year a new Tank trailer and pump have have been provided for cesspool emptying in this parish. The new equipment can be towed by tractor, and altogether, both from the point of view of efficiency and hygiene, it is a great improvement upon the old apparatus.

GENERAL.

There are 3,830 houses on the water carriage system, 2,876 being connected to the sewers and 954 to cesspools, etc. There are also 600 premises which have closets other than water closets.

The policy of the Council to order the conversion of any closet to a water closet and to contribute half the cost of the work involved, as laid down under the provisions of Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, has been pursued almost to its limit since the war, though 6 more were so converted during the year.

Grant aided improvement works, however, continued to add to the number of conversions carried out during 1958. Thus, by the year end 12 such conversions had been completed, over half involving the construction of a septic tank system of sewage disposal.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The whole of the District is scavenged by direct labour, four motor vehicles being normally in use, and two others available when called upon. It is possible to maintain fairly regularly, a fortnightly collection.

Four controlled tips are in regular use, and in addition, one small tip as a "reserve" when access to the "Over-Lune" area tip is barred by high tides. The details of the tipping arrangements are as follows :—

1. All Parishes to the North of Lancaster. Controlled tip at Cote Stones. Warton. Tipping space available for many years.

2. "Over-Lune" part of the District (i.e. Parishes of Heaton-with-Oxcliffe, Middleton and Overton).

Controlled tip on the tidal marsh between Sunderland Point and Overton, where proper access has been formed, sub-drains laid, and a barrier constructed. The scheme not only provides tipping space for several generations but also will result in the reclamation of some 16 acres of land.

3. Parishes to the South of Lancaster.

The bulk of the refuse from these parishes is deposited on the newly acquired controlled tip near Parkside, in the Parish of Ashton-with-Stodday. Here again, there is sufficient capacity to serve for many years.

4. The remainder, largely from the Abbeystead and Dolphinholme areas, is tipped at Mainstones Quarry in the Parish of Ellel, which is another large site.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS (excluding visits made in connection with Housing Act matters as detailed on Page 24).

| Premises visited or purpose of visit. | No. of visits. |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Houses—Public Health matters | 63 |
| Re Water Supplies | 62 |
| Re Drains or Sewers | 320 |
| Re Infectious Diseases | 146 |
| Caravan Sites | 64 |
| Factories and Workshops | 40 |
| Ice-cream Premises | 34 |
| Other food Premises | 134 |
| Visits re Meat inspection | 82 |
| Shops Act Inspections | 62 |
| Miscellaneous visits | 118 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total number of visits | 1125 |

In addition 684 visits of inspection to buildings in course of construction, and 270 visits or tests in connection with the detection of wastage of water were made during the year.

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Number of defects or nuisances discovered | 301 |
| Number of defects remedied or nuisances abated | 310 |
| Number of Informal Notices served | 77 |
| Number of Formal Notices served | 33 |
| Legal Proceedings | Nil |

Camping Sites. During 1958 there were 19 licensed sites for moveable dwellings and 14 caravans licensed "individually." In all, at the height of the Summer Season, there were approximately 1,100 moveable dwellings stationed within the District, and the maximum number of occupiers at any one time was probably rather more than 2,000 persons, 64 visits of inspection were made during the year, and generally, the sites continued to be well conducted.

With the co-operation of the owners of the sites concerned, some of the most unsightly and unorthodox moveable dwellings have been removed and replaced with normal type trailer-caravans. Though this must be a continuing policy to bring about the desired results, very considerable improvements have been brought about. in particular at Lower Bank House, Cockerham and Shorefield Caravan site, Middleton Sands. Many of these structures were stationed on the sites before there was planning control, so that enforcement action is not possible. Nevertheless, site proprietors are themselves anxious to conform with present-day accepted standards, and their co-operation has been readily forthcoming.

Schools. Sixteen of the seventeen schools in the District are provided with a water carriage system of sanitation, and again all but one school obtain their water from main supplies. The Abbeystead Church of England School has a piped supply from a private reservoir and this has been found to be consistently satisfactory, bacteriologically.

Regarding the one school still using a conservancy system of sanitation, the Glasson Dock Church of England School, I feel it is my duty to repeat the words I used in my Annual Report for 1957, viz: "Most of the children attending this school come from the village of Glasson Dock, in which every house has modern sanitation. I am quite certain that these circumstances make it all the more important that a scheme for the drainage and conversion of dry lavatories should be a matter of high priority. Whilst it is realised that the costs would be high, compared with the average scheme, it is fairly certain that considerable discomforture is suffered by some of these children, loath to use the accommodation provided, it being primitive compared with what they have become used to, in their own homes. I do not need to stress that such discomforture would have a very real detrimental affect upon the health and education of those concerned". During the year an estimate based on current prices was prepared, to carry out this scheme. This indicated that the cost would be in the region of £2,100, on the face of it, a very large sum of money, in order to provide just one amenity for a small village school. Nevertheless, if one assumes that the County Education Authority have decided that the continuing existence of this school is a necessity, it would appear to me that the same Authority should regard the provision of this amenity as equally necessitous.

Swimming Baths. There are no public swimming baths in the district, but two are privately owned. Only one of these has been used in recent years, that at Middleton Tower Holiday Camp. There is continuous circulation of water at this bath, and a recently re-newed chlorination plant. Again, owing to unfavourable weather conditions, it was not so much used as during a normal season, but two samples of the water were taken for bacteriological examination, and each was reported "Satisfactory".

Smoke Abatement. There are seven factory and works chimneys in the district (excluding Messrs. Trimpell Ltd., and I.C.I. Ltd.) and no action has been necessary regarding smoke abatement.

Canal Boats. There are a few Canal Boats which pass through the district but these are inspected by the Lancaster Corporation. No further action is taken by this authority.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades carried on in this district.

Common Lodging Houses. There is only one common lodging house in the district., situated at Millhead, in the parish of Warton. The deputy keepers, appointed last year have continued to maintain the improved conditions, and generally the premises are satisfactory.

Underground Sleeping Rooms and Houses Let in Lodgings. There are none in the district.

Shops and Offices. As from April, 1956, the routine inspection of premises under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1950, on behalf of the Lancashire County Council, was undertaken by the Council. Thus, in addition to matters dealt with directly, such as sanitary accommodation, ventilation and temperature, enquiries were made concerning the employment of young persons, lighting, washing facilities, facilities for taking meals and certain special provisions relating to the employment of female assistants. During 1958 62 such inspections and enquiries were carried out and a number of minor infringements reported to the County Medical Officer of Health, in whose hand the enforcement of that part of the Act remains. By far the greater number of shops in the District are entirely family businesses with living accommodation attached to the business premises, and not involving the employment of any person other than members of the family.

Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces (Factories Act, 1937).

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Number of Inspections | 40 |
| Number of Written Notices | Nil |
| Prosecutions | Nil |

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk. The systematic programme of sampling of milk distributed throughout the District was continued during 1958. A summary of the results of the various tests and examinations is given below :—

(a) Raw Milk.

(i) Tuberculosis-biological tests.

No. of samples, 58. No. Positive, Nil.
No. Negative, 58.
No. Result, Nil.

(ii) Bacteriological examinations—B. Coli.

No. of samples, 60. No. Satisfactory 57
No. Unsatisfactory 3 (5.0%)

(iii) Methylene Blue reduction test.

No. of samples, 60. No. Satisfactory 55
No. Unsatisfactory 5 (8.3%)

(b) "Heat treated Milk.
"Pasteurised."

(i) Phosphatase test.

| | | | |
|-----------------|----|--------------------|-----|
| No. of samples, | 3. | No. Satisfactory | 3 |
| | | No. Unsatisfactory | Nil |

(ii) Methylene Blue reduction test.

| | | | |
|-----------------|----|--------------------|-----|
| No. of samples, | 3. | No. Satisfactory | 3 |
| | | No. Unsatisfactory | Nil |

(iii) Bacteriological examinations—B. Coli.

| | | | |
|-----------------|----|--------------------|-----|
| No. of samples, | 3. | No. Satisfactory | 3 |
| | | No. Unsatisfactory | Nil |

In addition 18 "Bulk" Samples of milk from two herds were taken for whey agglutination tests. In each case, a person regularly consuming milk from the particular herd was known to have developed Brucellosis. All the samples, however, were reported "negative" and, as it was also known that other milk supplies outside this district had been consumed, it was fairly definitely established that the infections had not originated from the two herds under investigation.

As regards the results tabulated above, of routine samples taken for bacteriological examination, once again the fact that all T.B. biological tests upon raw milk were negative, and that all heat treated milk was found to be satisfactory, is the most pleasing feature. The percentage of unsatisfactory samples as regards the presence of B. Coli or methylene blue reduction tests (keeping quality) is again very considerably below the figure for Administrative County as a whole during 1957, these being the latest available statistics. The comparatively high standard of quality of the raw milk sold on the district is probably the result of two main factors. Firstly the methods and practice of the farmers producing milk for retail distribution, and secondly the minimum delay between production and distribution, which in rural areas averages only a matter of two or three hours or even less.

Nevertheless, although I would be in the forefront in acknowledging the obvious desirability of such achievements as improved methods of production and distribution, I must still deplore the fact that such a small proportion of the milk retailed in the Rural District has been heat-treated. As I have previously stated, heat-treatment offers the maximum degree of protection against milk-born infections, certain of which may be present in raw milk produced under the most modern conditions, by a conscientious farmer. This infection may well be quite unknown to the farmer, until bacteriological results have provided the proof, as indeed has been the case on a number of occasions, in this district, in recent years.

There were 16 "dealer's licences" issued authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin tested" and 9 for "Pasteurised." As far as can be ascertained there was no "Sterilised" milk sold in the District during 1956.

There are, in all, 39 distributors of milk operating in the District, of which 17 are producer/retailers, 12 are dairymen operating from premises in the District, 3 are shopkeepers in the District and 7 are distributors operating from premises outside the District.

Any "repeated" unsatisfactory samples are reported to the Ministry of Agriculture Milk Advisory Officer, from whom excellent co-operation has been given at all times.

Positive "T.B." results would be immediately reported to the Lancashire County Council Veterinary Inspector and during the period of investigation of the herd, arrangements would be made for the heat-treatment of the milk supplies concerned prior to sale for human consumption.

Ice Cream. 65 visits of inspection to registered premises were made during the year, almost all of these visits being to the six premises where ice-cream is manufactured. Samples taken of these six supplies which were reported as follows:—

- 4 Grade 1. Satisfactory.
- 1 Grade 3. Unsatisfactory.
- 1 Grade 4. Unsatisfactory.

"Repeat" samples of the latter two supplies were reported again unsatisfactory, so that detailed investigations became necessary. These were carried out, the faults were located and remedied, and final repeat samples were reported "Satisfactory". There is no doubt that there is often a considerable demand for a particular "home-made" ice-cream, where the regular customers have developed over the years an acquired taste, for the local product. The amount of attention that has to be given to these producers, each serving a comparatively small community, is necessarily a great deal more than is required to effectively keep check on the large-scale produced article. However I feel that this special attention is more than justified in order to preserve for future generations, the enjoyment and pleasure given by these local recipes handed down from the "rude forefathers of the hamlet".

Meat. During 1958, the only routine slaughtering was carried out at the Cockerham private slaughterhouse. Here, a very high standard of quality was maintained.

| | Cattle excluding Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep & Lambs | Pigs |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------|--------|------------------|------|
| Number killed | 74 | 12 | Nil | 340 | 54 |
| Number inspected | 74 | 12 | — | 340 | 54 |
| Whole carcasses condemned | 1 | Nil | — | Nil | 3 |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned, with dis- ease other than T.B. | 19 | 5 | — | 12 | Nil |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. | 25.7 | 41.7 | — | 3.7 | 0.0 |
| Tuberculosis only :— Whole carcasses condemned : | 1 | Nil | — | Nil | Nil |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | Nil | 1 | — | Nil | Nil |
| Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis | 1.3 | 8.3 | — | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Number of carcasses found to be affected with cysticercus bovis | Nil | Nil | — | — | — |

Shrimp Picking Premises. The Food Hygiene (Amendment) Regulations 1957, which came into force as regards shrimp-pickers' premises, on 1st June 1958, required that all premises used by out-workers for the purpose of shrimp-picking, be registered with the Local Authority, subject to compliance with certain of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955. Meetings were held between officials of the various neighbouring Authorities where shrimp-picking is carried out by out-workers, as a normal practice, and an agreed interpretation of these particular Regulations was arrived at. These include the protection of the food from contamination, suitability of equipment and working surfaces, provision of adequate washing facilities, the cleanliness of the premises and the persons, and the action to be taken in the event of certain infectious diseases

occurring. During 1958, twenty-eight premises were inspected and duly registered, having been found to comply with the above requirements. One sample of picked shrimps was taken for bacteriological examination, and was reported satisfactory. The registered premises are situated at Overton, Sunderland Point and Glasson Dock. The Minister of Health and Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food propose to review the position towards the end of 1959, with the object of bringing to an end the practice of out-working in the food trade, if that seems practicable.

Other Food Premises. During the year exactly 100 inspections of cafe's hotel kitchens, food shops and other food premises were made, with special reference to the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955. It is most pleasing to report that steady improvement continues, often beyond the requirements of the Regulations, especially in regard to food shops. Most of the smaller shops, are now selling only pre-packed "protected" foods, and in the larger shops where "open" unwrapped foods are sold, the management and employees have become well aware of the necessity to provide adequate protection in the form of glass display Cabinets etc. It is only very infrequently that I now find "open" food displayed on the counter, unprotected from dust, droplets from coughs and sneezes and even the grubby hands of an inquisitive child. Many shops have installed refrigerated cabinets for the display and storage of meat producers etc, under ideal conditions. New premises at the rear of one butchers shop at Bolton-le-Sands have been completed and include wash-up rooms, a cutting up room, W.C., and personal washing facilities, cold storage space and hanging room. In the same parish a large grocer's store has been extended to take in additional storage accommodation and increased floor space in the shop itself, so as to allow greatly improved methods of display of foods to ensure maximum protection from contamination. Hotel and restaurant kitchens are regularly inspected, and by far the majority maintain a standard of cleanliness that is commendable.

List of Food Premises.

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| General grocers and provision dealers | 37 |
| Greengrocers and fruiterers | 3 |
| Fishmongers | 1 |
| Meat Shops | 5 |
| Bakers and confectioners | 7 |
| Fried fish shops | 6 |
| Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc. | 16 |
| Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, etc. | 50 |
| Shrimp-pickers — outworkers | 28 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 153 |

Adulteration. This part of food inspection is dealt with by the Lancashire County Council.

Bakehouses. There are now five bakehouses in the District, situated, one each at Bolton-le-Sands, Middleton, Overton and two at Silverdale. On the whole a good standard of general cleanliness is maintained, though in certain cases, there is still room for further improvement

Rodent Control Work. During the year inspections and test baiting were carried out at 29 premises, of which 2 were concerned with agriculture. 68 treatments and re-treatments were completed, involving 207 visits. 210 inspections of 70 manholes on the various sewerage systems were made following test-baiting or treatment. These latter were found to be remarkably free from rodent infestation.

During 1958, contracts for carrying out rodent control work on agricultural land, by the Lancashire Executive Committee Pests Department, were not re-newed. This work is being undertaken by a number of private contractors, previously employed by the L.A.E.C. The arrangement appears to be working in a very satisfactory manner.

